

Littlefield Letters



Vol. 89

FEBRUARY 1989

No. 2

FEBRUARY MUSTER CALL

date: 9 February 1989
time: 6:15 p.m.
Mess Call
place: Wyatt's Cafeteria
Hancock Center

What a wonderful problem we had at the January meeting. We had to get the cafeteria to find more seats for us. Our 1989 officers were duly installed in their respective offices. The gavel and the badge of office was passed to Cdr. Kerry Hellums. Rodney Leist was presented with a Past Cdr's. badge.

Now everyone please make that effort to attend again this month. First this is Valentines, and we always honor our Southern Valentines at this particular meeting. You will certainly want to bring your favorite Valentine for this reason, and also because we will have a very special guest as our speaker. Dr. James W. Pohl, well known History Professor at Southwest Texas State Univ. in San Marcos has graciously consented to come and speak to us. With an outstanding speaker of his caliber, we most certainly need to have the room filled to capacity. Please come and bring your family and friends.



TEXAS HEROES HONORED

The crowd overflowed at the Museum on January 22nd honoring our Texas Confederate Heroes. The ladies of the UDC as usual did a superb job in programming the event. Camp #59 took our usual place along their side. We posted the colors at the start of the program. Greg Hector offered the Invocation. Div. Commander Pete Orlebeke brought greetings from the SCV. The singing was led by Greg Hector, and the Battery fired a salute at the Monument after the service in the Museum. We were ably assisted by the Texas Rifles led by Capt. Scott Swinson and including Joe Walker, and members of the Lone Star Living History Assoc. from San Antonio.

All in all it was a very glorious day, and one in which duty was faithfully performed. If we don't take the time to honor these men, then why should we expect others to do so in a Texas holiday?

Camp News

Cdr. Kerry Hellums, David Morris, Marlow Taylor accompanied Greg Hector to a meeting of the Alamo Camp in San Antonio of January 18th when Greg installed the officers of that camp. Visits between camps encourage a feeling of brotherhood.

Expecting his request for transfer to be approved, William G. Bilton's name was on the 1989 Roster. Please remove it as he has withdrawn his application for transfer.

DUES ARE STILL DUE! I am pleased to report that 32 compatriots have answered the call to pay their 1989 dues. Twenty-eight (28) have failed to respond. Please, compatriots, have the courtesy to respond to the request for your dues today! If for some reason you do not wish to continue as a member of this camp, would you also please respond so that our finances might be spared the burden of continuing you on the mailing list. A response one way or the other is requested.

It also pleases us to report that the following are DIXIE DONORS and have contributed \$10 or more toward the publication of this newsletter and the continuation of the Cause: Tom Bishop, Robbie Chiles, Sam Cook, Bill Cooper, David Couch, Tom Hicks, Bill Kaiser, Lee Kinard, Warren Lynn, Allan Matetzschk, John Meadows, Robert Meadows, David Morris, Joe Dale Morris, Clarence Niebuhr, Joe O'Connor, Frank Schliecher, Ed Smith, James Smith, Buck Tinsley, Darrell Windham, and Bob Winston. Thanks, one and all!

Camp Dues Notice



CONFEDERATE CLIPPINGS

CONFEDERATE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

The Tenth Annual Confed. History Symposium will be held at Hill College in Hillsboro at the Performing Arts Center on Saturday, 1 April 1989. The theme this year will be "Battles of the Army of Northern Virginia." That evening a banquet will be held at the Thunderbird Restaurant. The speaker will be Jerry Russell CWRT who will give an "Update on the Preservation of Civil War Battlefields." Members of the CWRT, SCV, UDC, etc. receive a registration discount to the events: talks by Dr. James Pohl, Dr. Grady McWhiney, Dr. Norman Brown, Dr. Frank Vandiver, Confederate Music presentations, coffee and doughnuts, and a demonstration of Confederate Infantry and Artillery. The Littlefield Battery has been asked to participate in this demonstration. This all sounds like an event worthy of your attendance. Registration forms are available from your Adjutant.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CONFEDERATION

We hear from our brethren in Virginia that with lobbying help the Va. Legislature defeated bills that would have replaced "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia" as the state song. This is good news. We should ever be vigilant in safe-guarding our heritage against the attacks of those less concerned and less informed.

The "Littlefield Letters" is the official publication of the Major George W. Littlefield Camp № 59, Sons of Confederate Veterans. Permission to reprint is granted; credit line is appreciated. Subscriptions available for \$10 per year from Gregory T. Hector, editor, 5914 Sunshine Drive, Austin, Texas 78757.

From the... Editor's Desk



ATTACKS ON OUR HERITAGE -- EDITORIAL

We are in a battle from which the result will be a history of the South which reflects pride in our ancestors' accomplishments and institutions or one which will be recounted with shame for the Confederacy and the Confederate soldier.

Recently in the letters to the editor of the Daily Texan there appeared these words, "...I cannot understand why one would fight to hold on to symbols such as the Confederate flag, reminiscent of times of blatant socially sanctioned inequality and supremacist attitudes....the "great" white leader Jefferson Davis fought to sustain slavery, which legitimized the torture of blacks, and the "silly" Confederate flag continues to symbolize and call for white supremacy."

How do we fight this ignorance and reverse bigotry? One sure fire way is by education. We must continue to strive to show to all these apologists why this flag is sacred to us and no more represents noxious ideas than does the Christian flag or the US flag.

Another way is by constantly seeking good PR by calmly and respectfully showing in a dignified manner our love and respect for our ancestors as we did on Confederate Heroes Day. For if we don't, then we will have to live with the kind of event which one of our members told happened to his daughter in elementary school. When they came to the WBTS, the lights were turned off as they were told that this was a dark period in American history full of shame in what it stood for. And they are subtle, too.

Can a true Southerner enjoy participating in the "Battle Hymn" singing that with God's righteousness, the North will "trample out" the South? Tramp, tramp, tramp. Doesn't this vision continue to support the insidiousness of the "hate the South's heritage group"? It is not the kind of propaganda that I want either for myself or my children.

One bright note is that from Montgomery, Alabama, we have learned that on January 11th, a Judge found the head of the state NAACP and 13 black state legislators guilty of second-degree criminal trespass for trying to remove a Confederate battle flag from atop the Capitol. 2 February 1988. The conviction for the misdemeanor carried a \$100 fine plus court costs for each defendant.



ENLISTMENTS



Our newest member is also our youngest. Accepted into SCV membership at the January meeting was G. TODD HECTOR who was installed by his father, Greg Hector. Todd joins upon the record of his Great Great Great Grandfather Lamar Mirabeau Cravens who was a member of Co. F, First Miss. Cav. and ended the War as Captain of Squadron. He served until 1 June 1865 when he was paroled by Gen. Wilson USA at Macon, Ga. Todd was born 5 Sept. 1976 in Austin and is a student.

We also have a few applications in process. It is good to see the Camp grow. Recruiting is every members' responsibility. Hurrah for each and every new member, and old ones too!

HOW YOUNG THEY WERE!

No one knows the identity of the South's youngest soldier; here are a few of the claimants.

George S. Lamkin, Winona, MS, joined Stanford's Miss. Battery at 11 and was wounded at Shiloh before he was 12. T.D. Claiborne, left VMI at 13, reportedly became Capt. of the 18th Va. that year and was killed at 17. E.G. Baxter, Clark County, Ky, enlisted in the 7th Ky. Cav. at the age of 13 and a year later was second lieutenant. John B. Tyler, 1st Md. Cav., 12 in 1861, fought with his regiment until the end, without a wound. T.G. Bean organized two companies at the Univ. of Ala. when he was 13. Two years later he served as adjutant of the cadet corps taken into Confed. service. M.W. Jewett served as a private in the 59th Va. at age 13. W.D. Peak, Tenn., joined the 26th Tenn. at 14; so did Matthew J. McDonald, 1st Ga. Cav. John T. Mason, Fairfax Co.,

Va. was a file marker at First Manassas for the 17th Va. at 14 and later served aboard the cruiser Shenandoah. Billings Steele, one of Francis S. Key's grandsons, crossed into Va. from MD to join Mosby's Rangers at 16.

Commander's Corner

I wish to express my humble gratitude to each and everyone of you. To be chosen as Commander of the Major George W. Littlefield Camp #59 is a very great honor.

I look forward to the challenges ahead in the coming year. To be able to serve with such a wonderful group of people as yourselves gives me great pleasure. Again, thank-you very much, and may God bless you and yours.

Yours in the Common Cause,
Kerry Hellums

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Official Publication of the
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

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